

*\*Response to attached  
Inquiry / comment*

**From:** House & Governmental Affairs  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:43 AM  
**To:** 'Gisele Bryant'; Sen. & Gov Affairs Cmte  
**Cc:** Lowrey, Patricia; Ammersbach, Rosalie  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony (request) from the Louisiana Membership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Good morning Mrs. Proby-Bryant,

All house and senate committee meetings are available to watch live on the legislature's website ([legis.la.gov](http://legis.la.gov)). Below is important information regarding the upcoming Redistricting Roadshow meetings. Prepared statements and/or witness testimonies may be sent to the House and Governmental Affairs committee email address ([h&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:h&ga@legis.la.gov)). Please note that statements emailed to [h&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:h&ga@legis.la.gov) and received prior to 5:30 p.m. the day before the committee hearing will be distributed to the committee members prior to the meeting. Below are links relevant to the upcoming redistricting roadshow hearings. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, or if you need any further information.

Louisiana State Legislature: [Louisiana State Legislature](http://legis.la.gov)  
Redistricting Home Page: [Louisiana | Redistricting \(la.gov\)](http://legis.la.gov)  
Redistricting Meetings Page: [Louisiana | Redistricting \(la.gov\)](http://legis.la.gov) **\*Where to watch hearings LIVE!**  
House Rule 14.33 for prepared statements: [Louisiana Laws - Louisiana State Legislature](http://legis.la.gov)

Kind Regards,



*Committee Staff*

House and Governmental Affairs Committee  
**Louisiana House of Representatives**  
p: (225) 342-2403 f: (225) 342-0768  
w: [https://house.louisiana.gov/H\\_Cmtes/HouseAndGov](https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Cmtes/HouseAndGov)

**From:** Gisele Bryant <[gpbryant58@yahoo.com](mailto:gpbryant58@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:09 PM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs <[H&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:H&ga@legis.la.gov)>; Sen. & Gov Affairs Cmte <[s&g@legis.la.gov](mailto:s&g@legis.la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Testimony (request) from the Louisiana Membership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.



October 13, 2021

Sent via email

Email: [h&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:h&ga@legis.la.gov)

Email: [s&g@legis.la.gov](mailto:s&g@legis.la.gov)

Dear Chair Stefanski, Chair Hewitt, and Members of the Committees on House and Governmental Affairs and Senate and Governmental Affairs,

On behalf of the Louisiana Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., we hereby request that the Louisiana House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees provide real time virtual access to the upcoming 2021-2022 legislative roadshow hearings on redistricting for the citizens of this State.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) is an international organization of a sisterhood comprised of college-educated women founded on the principles of sisterhood, scholarship, and service, with the Sorority engaging in issues impacting the Black community and boldly confronts the challenges of African Americans and, hence, all Americans. Delta Sigma Theta is a preeminent service-based sorority, with more than 300,000 initiated members and over 1,000 chartered chapters worldwide.

In Louisiana, we have over seven thousand (7,000) members from twenty-seven (27) Alumnae Chapters and sixteen (16) collegiate chapters located in cities, towns, and rural communities throughout the State. Social Action is a major focus of the sorority, and under the direction of our National Social Action Commission, redistricting has been identified as one of our top social action priorities for 2021-2022.

In furtherance of this priority, the National Social Action Commission has established redistricting cohorts in all fifty (50) states, including Louisiana. The overarching goal of the redistricting cohorts is to ensure equity and fairness in the redrawing of political district lines resulting from the 2020 census count. In keeping with our national goal, members of the Louisiana Redistricting Cohort are working diligently as concerned citizens of our State to participate actively in the redistricting process and also to inform, educate, and engage our statewide membership on redistricting.

In this regard, the recently published redistricting roadshow hearing schedule indicates that in-person hearings will take place in the major cities and population areas of the State. However, many of the citizens of Louisiana, including our members, live in rural areas that would require them to drive for more than an hour each way to attend the nearest in-person hearing. In addition, many of our fellow Louisianians, including our sorority members, are in the process of recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida. As such, traveling long distances to a hearing in the next several months will not be possible for them. Lastly, Louisiana continues to struggle through the coronavirus pandemic and many of the cases reported are tied to community spread. Therefore, for these reasons, we request that all of the redistricting roadshow hearings be made available throughout the State on the appropriate virtual platform(s), in real time. This will allow all interested citizens to view and hopefully participate in the hearings, without the necessity of appearing in person. It is critical that Louisiana's redistricting process be transparent and accessible to all citizens of the State. This requested accommodation will go a long way in making that a reality.

Thank you for your prompt and favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Gisele Proby-Bryant, Chair  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated  
Louisiana Redistricting Cohort

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### 2021

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October 20	5:30 - 8:30PM	ULM Terrace - Monroe, LA
October 21	5:30 - 8:30PM	LSUS UC Theater - Shreveport, LA
October 26	5:30 - 8:30PM	ULL Atchafalaya Ballroom - Lafayette, LA
November 9	5:30 - 8:30PM	LSUA Ballroom - Alexandria, LA
November 16	5:30 - 8:30PM	Cotillion Ballroom Southern University - Baton Rouge, LA
November 30	5:30 - 8:30PM	Fuhrmann Auditorium - Covington, LA
December 15	5:30 - 8:30PM	Tritico Theater McNeese St University - Lake Charles, LA

### 2022

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January 5	5:30 - 8:30PM	University Center UNO - New Orleans, LA
January 11	5:30 - 8:30PM	Cotillion Ballroom Nicholls St University - Thibodaux, LA
January 20	11:00 AM	Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge, LA